

move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 9, Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 10 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wicker
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NAYS—44

Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Heinrich
Fetterman	Padilla

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The yeas are 52, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION OF DEANDREA GIST BENJAMIN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise to speak on the confirmation of DeAndrea Benjamin to a South Carolina seat on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Benjamin has had a prominent career as both a litigator and as a jurist. She received degrees from Winthrop University and the University of South Carolina School of Law before clerking for Judge L. Casey Manning on South Carolina's Fifth Judicial Circuit. She then joined the South Carolina Fifth Judicial Circuit's solicitor's office as a State prosecutor and also served as a county juvenile drug court liaison. She later joined the South Carolina Attorney General's Office and was named the State Violence Against Women Prosecutor. In this role, she prosecuted cases statewide where violence was perpetrated against women and children. Judge Benjamin entered private practice after 3 years of public service and focused on employment law, including workplace discrimination claims. In 2004, she became a municipal judge for the city of Columbia, South Carolina. Seven years later, the South Carolina General Assembly elected her to serve as a circuit court judge in South Carolina's Fifth Judicial Circuit.

As a practicing attorney, Judge Benjamin appeared in both State and Federal court and tried 21 cases to verdict. In her time on the bench, she has presided over thousands of matters involving both civil and criminal issues, including over 300 trials.

Judge Benjamin has significant experience in the courtroom and was unanimously rated "qualified" by the American Bar Association. In addition, she has deep ties to the South Carolina legal community and enjoys bipartisan support, including from her Republican home-State Senators.

I strongly supported her nomination and was glad to see her confirmed.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION RULES OF PROCEDURE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, the Committee on Rules and Administration has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 118th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf

of myself and Senator FISCHER, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE
MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 1. The regular meeting dates of the Committee shall be the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 10:00 a.m., in room SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building. Additional meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chair as he or she may deem necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Rule 2. Meetings of the Committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the Committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (a) through (f) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the Members of the Committee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings:

(a) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(b) will relate solely to matters of the Committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(c) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(d) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(e) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if:

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(f) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulations. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

Rule 3. Written notices of Committee meetings will normally be sent by the Committee's staff director to all Members of the Committee at least a week in advance. In addition, the Committee staff will telephone or e-mail reminders of Committee meetings to all Members of the Committee or to the appropriate assistants in their offices.

Rule 4. A copy of the Committee's intended agenda enumerating separate items of legislative business and Committee business will normally be sent to all Members of the Committee and released to the public at least 1 day in advance of all meetings. This does not